

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 01662 050846Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
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R 041705Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE ASHDC 6844
INFO AMEMBSSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1662

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GH, RO
SUBJ: MORE ON CEAUSESCU VISIT

REF: ACCRA 1473 (NOTAL)

1. DESPITE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION AND SIGNING OF
COMMUNIQUE WITH GOG REPORTED REFTEL, WE HAVE NOW
RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE ATMOSPHERICS
OF CEAUSESCU VISIT INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT AND
OFFICIAL PARTY SUCCEEDED IN ANNOYING MOST GHANAIS
WITH WHOM THEY CAME IN CONTACT. REFTEL REPORTED
LENGTHY (OVER ONE HOUR) JARGON-FILLED SPEECH
CEAUSESCU DELIVERED AT STATE BANQUET IN HIS HONOR
WHICH SUCCEEDED IN ANNOYING EVERYONE, INCLUDING
MY SOVIET COLLEAGUE.

2. IN ADDITION, WE NOW HEAR FROM SEVERAL WELL-PLACED
SOURCES THAT BEHIND THE SCENES CEAUSESCU AND PARTY
RUFFLED A GREAT MANY GHANAIS FEATHERS. EXAMPLES:
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 01662 050846Z

A. ROMANIAN PARTY WAS EXTREMELY DEMANDING AND
UNFORGIVING OF GOG INABILITY TO DELIVER ON SUCH ITEMS
AS ROMANIAN DEMAND FOR SPECIAL, DIRECT TELEX LINK
TO BUCHAREST AND OTHER SPECIAL COMMO REQUIREMENTS.
EXISTING TELEX IN HOTEL HOUSING MOST MEMBERS OF
PARTY WAS UNSATISFACTORY, ROMANIANS SAID, BECAUSE
THEY THOUGHT IT "BUGGED BY THE AMERICANS."

"B. SECURITY PERSONNEL WITH CEAUSESCU WERE EXTREMELY INSENSITIVE AND HAM-HANDED, TREATING GHANAIAAN OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN CAVALIER FASHION. IN RELENTLESS AND VERY THOROUGH SEARCH FOR LISTENING DEVICES, THEY REPORTEDLY "TURNED UPSIDE DOWN" THE ROOMS OCCUPIED BY CEAUSESCUS THEMSELVES IN THE CASTLE.

C. CEAUSESCU BROUGHT ALONG HIS OWN FOOD AND DRINK, ANNOYING GHANAIAANS FURTHER, AND INSISTED THAT ONLY WHITE ROMANIAN STEWARD COULD SERVE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU, EVEN DURING STATE BANQUET. THIS WENT DOWN HARD AND INDEED ANGERED MANY GHANAIAANS.

D. CEAUSESCU INSISTENCE ON LAST-MINUTE, UNANNOUNCED CHANGES IN SCHEDULE, INCLUDING CANCELLATION OF LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE ASANTEHENE, THE IMPORTANT ASHANTI LEADER, TO WHICH 200 PERSONS HAD ALREADY BEEN INVITED.

E. CEAUSESCU'S DISLIKE OF AIR CONDITIONING CAUSED CONSTANT RUNNING BATTLE BETWEEN GOG AND ROMANIAN SECURITY OFFICERS. LATTER WON THE BATTLE AT FEB 26 STATE BANQUET, CAUSING GUESTS TO SWELTER AND ANNOYING THE PROFUSELY PERSPIRING CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG. CEAUSESCU'S SECURITY GUARDS ALSO REGULARLY TURNED OFF AIR CONDITIONERS IN EVERY ROOM CEAUSESCU ENTERED WITHOUT BOTHERING TO CONSULT THE GHANAIAAN HOSTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ACCRA 01662 050846Z

F. ROMANIANS REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT STATE BANQUET WAS BLACK TIE AFFAIR, SINCE THIS WAS "UNSOCIALIST"

3. COMMENT: AS MORE DETAILS COME OUT, IT IS APPARENT THAT CEAUSESCU VISIT WAS A NEAR DISASTER ON THE PESONAL LEVEL AND THAT GHANAIAANS WERE INDEED GLAD TO SEE THE LAST OF HIM. ACUTELY SENSITIVE GHANAIAANS WERE QUICK TO SENSE THE OVERTONES OF LATENT RACISM IN THE WAY THE CEAUSESCU PARTY CONDUCTED THEMSELVES.
SMITH

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